

WHAT HE HASTO SAY

President McKinley's Message in a Nutshell.

A VERY MILD DOCUMENT.

It is More Remarkable for What Does Not Contain Than For What It Does.

President McKinley's second annual message, which was submitted to Congress on Tuesday last week, contained something like twenty thousand words. The message may be summed up as follows:

It is a history of the war; it is a fervent expression of thanks to a Divine power for the success of American arms; it is an expression of a nation's appreciation for the heroism and patriotism displayed in battle; it urges an increase of the regular army to 100,000 men; it reviews our relations with the nations of the world; it reiterates Republican policy as to the financial question; it does not discuss the Philippine problem; it does not discuss legislation for the new Possessions; it does not discuss the race troubles; it does not discuss the tariff.

Following is a brief synopsis, including some direct excerpts of the more important features of the message:

"Notwithstanding the war, our people rejoice in a very satisfactory and steadily increasing degree of prosperity evidenced by the largest volume of business ever recorded. Manufacture has been productive, agricultural pursuits have yielded abundant returns, labor in all fields of industry is better rewarded," etc.

CONTROVERSY WHICH LED TO THE WAR.

In reviewing the controversy which led up to the war with Spain, the president takes up the thread of narrative where terminated in his last annual message. He comments: "It was none of our friendly relations with Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations of reform to which she had become irrevocably committed." It became, however, that the proposed plans were barren of good results. No tangible relief was afforded the reconquered, among whom the rate of mortality frightfully increased; the proffered expedients of zones of cultivation proved illusory, and it was apparent that nothing save the physical exhaustion of Spain or the Cubans and the practical ruin of the island of Cuba could result from the struggle then in progress.

At this critical juncture the destruction of the battleship Maine occurred. Concerning it the president says:

"It is striking evidence of the poise and sturdy good sense distinguishing our national character that, shaking but not falling upon a generous people, they deeply touched by them to an instant, desisted from the course of action, and the existence of a condition of danger and disorder at our doors that made possible such a deed, by whomsoever wrought."

"Still animated, however, by the hope of a peaceful solution of the difficulty and obeying the dictates of duty, the president relaxed no effort to bring about a speedy ending of the Cuban struggle. Negotiations with the Madrid government proved futile, so far as practical results were concerned, and then it was the president presented the question to Congress."

The result of this statement of the case was the adoption of the memorable joint resolution by Congress, declaring the purpose of the United States to intervene between the Spaniards and Cubans. Following swiftly upon the enactment of the resolution came the severance of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the proclamation of a blockade of Cuban ports, the call for volunteers and the formal declaration of the existence of a state of war. All other governments were immediately notified of the existence of war and each proclaimed neutrality. "It is not among the least gratifying incidents of the struggle that the obligations of neutrality were impartially discharged by all, often under delicate and difficult circumstances."

Referring to the "difficult and important character" of the work performed by the signal corps, the president says: "This service was invaluable to the executive in directing the operation of the army and with a total force of 1,500 men was by no means in camp alone, officers and men included, only five."

"As to the authorized loan of \$200,000,000 which was taken entirely by small bidders, the president says: "This was a most encouraging and significant result, showing the vast resources of the nation and the determination of the people to uphold their country's honor."

THE STIRRING EVENTS OF THE WAR.

Taking up chronologically the events of the war, the president reviews them carefully. The first encounter was the Battle of Manila on April 27th. It was followed by an engagement which was "designed to mark a memorable epoch in maritime warfare." This was Commodore Dewey's wonderful victory at Manila on May 1. "The effect of this remarkable victory," says the president, "upon the spirit of our people and upon the fortunes of the war was instant. A prestige of invincibility thereby attached to our arms, which continued throughout the struggle."

But the war by its exceptional heroism. On the night of June 23, Lieutenant Hobson, aided by seven devoted volunteers blocked the narrow outlet from Santiago harbor by sinking the collier Merrimac in the channel, under a fierce fire from the shore batteries, escaping with their lives as by a miracle, but falling into the hands of the Spaniards. It is a most gratifying incident of the war that the bravery of this little band of heroes was cordially appreciated by the Spanish admiral."

The campaign of Santiago, resulting in the investment and capture of that city is referred to as a brilliant achievement. A brief review is then presented of the decisive naval combat, of the war on July 3d, resulting in the complete destruction of Admiral Cervera's fleet. Concerning it the president says:

"Where all so conspicuously distinguished themselves from the command to the gunners and the unnamed heroes in the boiler rooms, each and all contributing toward the achievement of this astounding victory, for which neither ancient nor modern history affords a parallel in the completeness of the event and the marvelous disproportion of casualties, it would be invidious to single out any for a special honor."

As to the success gained by the arms of the United States in Cuba, the president says that the earnest, lasting gratitude of the nation is unsparingly due. "Nor should we alone remember the gallantry of the living. The dead claim our tears, and our losses by battle and by disease must cloud any exultation as the result and teach us the awful cost of war, however rightful the cause or signal the victory."

TOTAL CASUALTIES DURING THE WAR. "The total casualties in the army during the war with Spain were: Officers killed 257, total 280. Officers wounded 113, enlisted men wounded 1,464, total 1,577.

Of the navy: Killed 17, wounded 67, died as result of wounds 1. Invalided from service 6. Total 91.

In the entire campaign by land and sea we did not lose a gun or a flag or a transport or a ship, and with the exception of the loss of the Merrimac, not a soldier or sailor was taken prisoner."

The president bears testimony and pays fitting tribute "to the patriotism and devotion of that large portion of our army which, although eager to be ordered to the post of greatest exposure, fortunately was not required outside of the United States." The president says: "In tracing these events we are constantly reminded of our obligations to the Divine Master for His faithful service over us, and His safe guidance for which the nation makes reverent acknowledgement and offers humble prayer for the continuance of His favors."

Referring to the work of the peace commission in Paris, the president says:

"Their negotiations have made hopeful progress, so that I trust soon to be able to lay a definite treaty of peace before the senate with a review of the steps leading to its signature."

"I do not discuss at this time the government nor the future of the new Possessions which will come to us as the result of the war with Spain. Such discussion will be appropriate after the peace has been ratified. In the meantime and until the congress has legislated otherwise, it will be my duty to continue the military governments which have existed since our occupation and give to the people security in life and property and encouragement under a just and beneficent rule."

As to the future of Cuba he says: "As soon as we are in possession of Cuba and have pacified the island it will be necessary to give aid and direction to its people to form a government for themselves. The earliest possible moment consistent with safety and assured success."

The president says that with the one exception of the rupture with Spain, the intercourse of the United States with the great family of nations during the past year has been marked with cordiality.

NICARAGUAN CANAL REPORT IS READY. The president expects that the Nicaraguan canal commission will shortly be able to report finally. "I have not hesitated to express my convictions," says the president, "that considerations of expediency and international policy as between the several governments interested in the construction and control of an inter-oceanic canal by this route require the maintenance of the status quo until the canal commission shall have reported and the United States congress shall have had the opportunity to pass finally upon the whole matter." He regarded, in view of our newly acquired interests in the Pacific ocean, the construction of such a maritime highway as now more than ever indispensable.

Concerning the extraordinary events transpiring in the Chinese empire, and its expenditures \$659,574,647, president says that our position among nations gives the equitable claim to consideration and friendly treatment in this regard, and that it will be his aim to subvert our large interests in the Orient by all means appropriate to the constant policy of our government.

The president reports that the Hawaiian commission has fulfilled its mission, and that its report will be laid before congress at an early day.

Referring to the proposal of the czar of Russia for a general reduction of the great military establishments, the president says: "His majesty was at once informed of the cordial sympathy of this government with the principle involved in his exalted proposal and of the readiness of the United States to take part in the conference."

Alluding to the financial affairs of the country, the president says in part: The secretary of the treasury reports that the receipts of the government from all sources during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1898, including \$64,751,223 received from sale of Pacific railroad, amounted to \$405,321,353, and its expenditures to \$443,363,582. It is estimated upon the basis of present revenue laws that the receipts of the government for the year ending June 30th, 1899, will be \$557,874,647, resulting in a deficiency of \$112,000,000.

GOLD FOR REDEMPTION GREENBACKS. "In my judgment the present conditions of the treasury amply justify the immediate enactment of the legislation recommended one year ago, under which a portion of the gold holdings should be placed in a trust fund from which greenbacks should be redeemed upon presentation, but when once redeemed should not thereafter be paid out except for gold. It is not to be inferred that other legislation relating to our currency is not required; on the

contrary there is an obvious demand for it."

The recommendation made by the secretary of war for the increase of the regular military establishment has the president's unqualified approval. He says he will muster out the entire volunteer army as soon as congress shall provide for the increase of the regular establishment.

No mention is made in the message of legislation for the new Possessions. No specific mention is made of the Philippine problem. Tariff is not mentioned. The recent race troubles in South and North Carolina are not mentioned.

CUBANS DISREGARD ORDERS.

They Go Through a Street in Santiago Bearing Arms.

Last Wednesday was the anniversary of the death of Gen. Antonio Maceo and it was celebrated among the Cubans in Santiago. A memorial service was held in the morning in the cathedral, which was crowded.

Considerable annoyance was occasioned to the United States authorities by the fact that some 75 men, Cubans marched the entire length of St. Thomas street, armed with rifles and machetes, although all Cubans are well aware that such conduct is strictly against the regulations, armed bodies other than United States troops not being allowed.

The offenders in question did not ask permission to march armed, and their intention was not made known to the American authorities. Indeed, the cathedral had been reached by the parade before the fact was reported to headquarters.

Col. Beason, who is chief in command here during the absence of Gen. Wood, immediately called upon the mayor regarding the affair, and was by him referred to Col. Garcia, who sent an orderly to bring the appearance of the offenders at headquarters. Meanwhile the armed squad had fired three volleys, many using ball cartridges, which bullets striking the upper portions of the cathedral, caused the bell ringers to flee from their post.

In less than a quarter of an hour an officer from the Fifth immune regiment arrived at headquarters with a message from Col. Sergeant, stating that several bullets had struck his tent at different points, and asking information as to the cause.

Col. Beason ordered Col. Garcia not to allow his men to attend the evening procession armed. The sole reason why the offenders were not arrested was that they were within the cathedral limits at the time.

A band of Cubans on horseback entered the premises of the Spanish club-house this evening and broke several lamps with their machetes.

The United States authorities acted promptly. As a result of the outrage at least half the police force will be discharged.

ACTUALLY BLOWN TO ATOMS.

Men Who Were Hauling a Government Mine. Cause Unknown.

Four men were killed and seven seriously injured at Fort Independence, on Cayo Island, in Boston harbor Wednesday afternoon by explosion of a mine which had been removed from the channel by a diver. The dead:

Sgt. Morris McGrath, Hiram Vaughn, Private Brennan (a diver).—Ryan (a citizen).

Vaughn, Brennan and Ryan had placed the mine on a team and started to take it to the place where the other ammunition was stored. The road along which they passed was unusually smooth, having been constructed with a view to the necessity of care in transporting explosive material. Without warning the mine burst. The horse and cart and the three men were blown to fragments. Sgt. McGrath was standing fully 20 feet away. He was instantly killed by the concussion. His body does not bear a mark of any sort. As soon as possible after the explosion a careful search was begun by Lieut. Raymond, who had charge of removing the mines, but not a fragment of men or clothing could be found. Lieut. Raymond states that he cannot explain how the explosion occurred. He says how the explosion was issued from Washington hundred of mines have been handled in precisely the same way as was this one and transported over the same road.

Ryan was a civilian assisting in the work, Vaughn was a member of the engineer corps. He had only two weeks more to serve when he expected to be transferred to a naval college to take a course in naval construction.

Sgt. McGrath was the keeper of the island.

The Very Best Plan.

Gen. Miles's plan of reorganization for the United States army is founded on very excellent precedent. The plan is similar, says Gen. Miles in his report, to that which was found so effective in the Confederate army. This recognition of the excellence of the Confederate army is quite remarkable, coming from Gen. Miles, and it will be a very bitter dose to the G. A. R. and the "rebel" armies thus officially glorified. But the tribute could not be withheld. It was necessary to organize the United States army on a proper basis, and the best model obtainable was necessarily that made by Robert E. Lee, the greatest captain that America has produced.—Charleston Post.

Corn Wanted.

The State Department at Washington has received a special report from the United States Consul General at Cape Town showing that a heavy and increasing demand exists in South Africa for corn and American corn meal. In Cape Town corn is quoted at \$3.52 per 100 pounds, or \$1.97 per bushel of 56 pounds, and the supply is not equal to the demand. In that market wheat brings \$4.44 per 100 pounds, or \$2.66 per bushel of 60 pounds.

Eleven Drowned. The French steamer Algerois has foundered near Bona, a fortified seaport town of Algeria, near the mouth of the River Seibus. Eleven persons were drowned.

THE BAPTISTS.

Proceedings of the Annual Convention of this Year.

MEETING AT DARLINGTON.

An Interesting Yearly Review of the Work by the Largest Denomination in the State.

The annual convention of Baptists in South Carolina was held in Darlington Nov. 30th to Dec. 4th, inclusive. It was preceded by a ministers' conference, which met on the 29th of November. On Wednesday night the convention sermon was preached by Rev. E. E. Bomar, of Aiken.

President Hudson called the convention to order and introduced the preacher, who read the hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' name," which was sung. He read selection of Scripture from the first chapter of First Epistle of Peter and the first chapter of Second Peter. Then followed the sermon.

The roll of delegates was called by Secretary C. P. Ervin, D. D., and showed present 155.

Judge J. H. Hudson resigned the presidency and D. W. Rice, D. D., of Denmark, was elected president of the convention. Rev. C. P. Ervin, D. D., was elected secretary and Rev. A. T. Zimmerman assistant secretary. Col. Zimmerman Davis was elected treasurer of the convention, Dr. T. M. Bailey casting the vote.

Rev. V. I. Masers cast the vote of the convention for the Revs. E. J. Forster and C. T. Scaife, for vice-presidents.

The following committee was appointed on order of business: J. D. Robertson, J. D. Pitts, W. E. Thayer, R. N. Pratt.

Dr. Frost of Nashville and Dr. Dargatz of Louisville were recognized as visitors.

Members of the convention who have recently come into the State were also recognized: Rev. W. A. Pearson, Rev. A. E. C. Pittman and Rev. W. S. B. Ford. The last named has not just come into State, but into the denomination.

The convention engaged in special prayer for Rev. D. H. Crossland and G. G. Wells, who are now quite ill. This ended the first day proceedings and the convention adjourned.

On Thursday morning promptly at 10 o'clock the new president, Dr. Rice, called the convention to order. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. S. B. Ford. The minutes of Wednesday's meeting were read and adopted.

By unanimous consent Dr. Montague made a short talk on the work of election of trustees of Furman University, and offered the following resolution:

"That the president appoint a committee consisting of one from each association here present to nominate 25 names for trustees of Furman University."

The following were appointed: Dr. T. M. Bailey, chairman; A. E. C. Pittman, W. M. Waters, J. B. Boseman, J. W. Perry, E. A. McDowell, F. E. Bomar, Wm. Haynesworth, F. C. Hickson, E. J. Kennedy, H. E. Buckholz, A. H. Martin, J. D. Winchester, J. H. Cuesby, J. W. Gardner, J. F. Single, ton, B. J. Woodward, J. C. Bundie, J. L. Ouzts, J. S. Croxton, A. C. Wilkins, A. C. West, H. P. Granger, H. S. Baggott, E. P. Easterling, R. T. Marsh and Simeon Hyde.

Dr. T. M. Bailey made his annual report as corresponding secretary of State missions. There have been 36 missionaries employed during the year in 25 out of the 34 associations. The labors have been unusually blessed and notwithstanding the depressed financial conditions the receipts are only \$100 behind last year. A debt for \$4,500 reported. Total receipts, \$11,377, 18.

The next report was that of Dr. C. C. Brown on aged ministers' relief fund. Thirty beneficiaries have been added this year. Six have died this year, leaving now 24. Seven of these are now languishing on beds of sickness. The board paid out to beneficiaries, and printing and postage expenses \$2,315. 13.

Superintendent J. L. Vass read the report of the Connie Maxwell orphanage. This is the seventh annual report. Receipts this year amount to \$11,149. 65. This is more than has been raised in any one year. There are in the orphanage this year 114 children.

The Rev. D. W. Key read the report of the board of ministers education. This board is now aiding 16 ministerial students.

An admirable report on education was read by Prof. F. N. K. Bailey, president of the South Carolina Co-educational institute.

President Montague began by reading a report of the workings of Furman University, stating that he would not make an address. His report began by calling attention to the fact that some changes have been made in the management. These changes were not made by the president alone, but with him were the other members of the faculty. The institution has two departments, the preparatory and collegiate. There are four instructors in the preparatory department, and the college has three professors and lecturers. In the lowest undergraduate degree there are required some studies that are found in the highest undergraduate degrees in colleges in the South. The A. M. degree is a graduate school. Some young men are taking some studies in this course who are reading law. This is the beginning of the law course, which the university is now looking forward to. The student body is a noble, high-minded set, and the friend-ships between them and the president is most cordial and genial. The number is 170, which is above the average for the last ten years. The financial income annually is \$11,960. The need of the University is more money, more endowment to meet all expenses with the income without having to draw on invested funds. At present there is a deficit of from \$900 to \$1,000 annually. The main building needs to be repaired, a gymnasium and a library are

needed. The beginning and the completion soon of the contemplated alumni hall. Here he made a strong appeal for the \$5,000 still needed to complete the sum necessary to build the hall. His words were masterly and their effect was wonderful. Before going further it was resolved to take up a collection for Furman University, and the force and power of Dr. Montague's words were shown by immediate results. From associations, individuals and churches four thousand dollars were pledged and contributed to the needs of Furman. This will be used towards building an alumni hall.

On Friday morning Dr. E. C. Dargatz called the convention in the interest of the Student's fund at the seminary in Louisville, and asked for a pledge of \$800, getting \$810. Some of these pledges were paid immediately. A hat collection amounted to \$47.

The chair appointed J. I. Ayres, C. C. Brown, R. E. Peele a committee on Sunday School Chautauqua, and C. L. Dowell to report on Woman's Mission societies.

The special order for the hour of 11:30 was foreign missions. The report was read by O. L. Martin. Southern Baptists have 76 missionaries in foreign fields—Japan, China, Mexico, South America, Italy and Africa. They have, had, this year, 701 conversions. The expense of the board has been \$124,440 the past year. The work for the year was put into the care of Dr. E. E. Bomar, vice president for foreign mission board in South Carolina, who conducted devotional exercises for a few moments, consisting of prayer and songs.

Dr. T. M. Bailey for his committee reported the following nominations for trustees of Furman University and of Greenville Female College, which report was unanimously adopted.

Trustees for one year: J. H. Morgan, J. W. Shelor, W. H. Lyles, E. J. Kennedy, J. L. Tribble. For two years: H. F. McGee, J. A. Carroll, S. G. Mayfield, J. E. Brunson, J. H. Hudson, J. K. Hays, S. M. A. Cook, W. B. Singleton, A. W. Mossley, P. G. Hopper, R. B. Porter, J. T. Brasington, J. V. Kreps, P. S. Greene and Krap, as well as three distinguished laymen, C. J. Woodruff, James E. Childress, J. F. V. Legg.

The committee on time and place now made a report. Gaffney city was selected as the place, and Wednesday before the last day of December next, at 8 o'clock, was the time.

The report on obituaries was read by Rev. J. W. Perry. This report noted specially at some length the lives and characters of two distinguished deceased ministers, Rev. B. W. Whilden and Rev. John G. Williams, D. D. Respected mention in the report was made of other deceased ministers, William H. Snider, M. J. Willoughby, Baxter Hays, S. A. Cook, W. B. Singleton, A. W. Mossley, P. G. Hopper, R. B. Porter, J. T. Brasington, J. V. Kreps, P. S. Greene and Krap, as well as three distinguished laymen, C. J. Woodruff, James E. Childress, J. F. V. Legg.

TO BE LOOKED INTO. Congress to Investigate the War Department.

On the very first day of the meeting of Congress last week Representative Sulzer of New York, ranking Democratic member of the house committee on military affairs, has introduced a resolution "authorizing and directing the committee on military affairs to investigate the war department and the conduct of the Spanish-American war."

The resolution is as follows: Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be, and the same are hereby, authorized and directed to investigate the war department and the conduct of the recent war between Spain and the United States, and report all said proceedings with their findings, conclusions and recommendations to the house of representatives with all convenient speed: that said committee is hereby authorized and empowered to send for books, documents, papers, and persons, examine persons under oath, sit any part of the United States, employ a stenographer, and that the sergeant-at-arms is hereby directed to attend said committee and carry out its directions; that the necessary expenses of the investigation be paid out of the contingent fund of the house.

The resolution was referred to the committee on military affairs.

Jealousy Led to Murder. A double murder was committed Wednesday in a country church two miles out from Missouri City, Mo. Miss Della Cleverly was shot down mortally by her husband, George Allen, who was a member of the church, and was instantly killed. The murderer was Ernest Cleverly, cousin to the young woman who was one of his victims. The tragedy occurred immediately after the congregation had been dismissed, as the worshippers were leaving the church. Young Allen and Miss Cleverly were walking out together. Ernest Cleverly slipped up behind them, placed a revolver close to Allen's head and fired. His victim fell dead at his feet. The assassin turned the weapon upon his fair young cousin, shooting her in the back. She fell across the body of her murdered husband. The murderer escaped. Jealousy was the cause.

A Plucky Captain. With a majority of his crew in irons having muzzled, the British ship Jack Burrill, Capt. Robertson, hence for Santos with 3,000 tons of coal passed seaward from Philadelphia Thursday. While outward bound the Burrill anchored at Brandywine shoals and while there began to leak but only slightly. All hands were set to work to pump her out and while thus engaged decided to protest against going in the ship, on the ground that she was unworthy. After a most thorough survey the ship was pronounced seaworthy. The leak was the crew, but still they protested. Capt. Robertson faced the issue squarely. He sent to Philadelphia for a sufficient number of men to work the ship clear of the capes and went out Thursday. The crew to a man were in mutiny, and will be kept locked up until they agree to turn to without further trouble.

Remembering Our Heroes. The four statues on the Confederate soldiers' monument in Capitol Hill in Montgomery, Ala., were unveiled Wednesday. They represent infantry, cavalry, artillery and navy. Imposing ceremonies were held. Addresses were made by ex-Governor Thomas G. Jones, as orator of the day; ex-Secretary of the Navy Herbert, for the navy; J. M. Faulkner, for the cavalry; G. W. A. Sanford, for the infantry, and Benj. S. Crews for the artillery. The 13 Confederate States were represented by 13 young ladies and the four branches of the service by four young ladies. The statues are impersonal and represent privates in the various arms of the service. There was an immense attendance, as excursion trains came in from all parts of the State.

A NOVEL ELECTION BET

One Thousand Kisses Against Thirty Fine Steers.

Kansas, with her usual reputation of producing many strange and wonderful things, is again at the front with one of the most peculiar election bets that has so far come to light. Out in Grant county, which is one of the thirty-six counties that go to make up the big Seventh congress district, over which Jerry Simpson and Chester I. Long have so bitterly contended for the past few years, there is situated at the junction of the north fork of the Cimarron river and Prairie Dog creek the little town of Golden, a "short-grass" hamlet, inasmuch as it is situated in that part of Kansas known as the short-grass region. Golden is not what could be rightfully called a prosperous village, nor was it expected it would be when first settled; it consists of one general merchandise store, postoffice, and a few dwellings. The inhabitants of the surrounding country are mostly ranchmen and cowboys who center at Golden for the purchase of supplies.

It was Miss Lucy Withers, a resident of Golden, who brought this isolated prairie town to the attention of the public. Miss Withers is a comely woman of some twenty Kansas summers, a school teacher, and lives with her widowed mother. She has always been a great admirer of Jerry Simpson from Medicine Lodge and never loses an opportunity to champion his cause.

A few evenings before election there was a social gathering in the neighborhood, and it was during this time that Miss Withers and young and well-to-do ranchman, by the name of Harold Owens, took opposing views on the political situation. The young teacher questioned Mr. Owens as to the depth of his faith in his candidate's election, and whether or not he was willing to wager some of his possessions to show his confidence. This was somewhat of a set back for the young ranchman, but he informed her that he had thirty of the finest steers that ever grazed in Grant county, all of which he valued at \$1,000, and which he would bet that Mr. Long would be elected to Congress.

"What have you, Miss Withers, to show your faith in the return of Simpson to Congress?" asked the young ranchman.

Now, the teacher owned no steers, neither had she anything equivalent to thirty head of cattle, but she determined not to be outdone. She hesitated a moment and said:

"I will wager you 1,000 kisses at \$1 each against your steers that Jerry Simpson wins."

The young ranchman had civilized bucking broncos, mastered the lariat and many other difficult feats in a ranchman's life, but this offer was the most perplexing proposition that had ever been handed him. There was something fascinating about the collateral offered and he replied:

"I will accept with the understanding that in case I win you allow me to collect my winnings on the installment plan."

"You may suit your pleasure about that,"

"Then it is an agreement and our listeners are the witnesses."

The election resulted in a bad defeat of Simpson. Harold Owens says he will collect twenty kisses, a week until the obligation is cancelled.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT. Happened in a Tall Building in New York.

An accident to the elevator in the 11-story building at Pine and Williams street, New York, occupied by the United States Fire Insurance company Wednesday resulted in the death of one of the company's directors, the probable fatal injury of another director and the serious injury of a third insurance man. Several other members of the directorate of the United States Fire Insurance company who were in the elevator at the time of the crash, together with others, miraculously escaped.

Walter H. Griffin, secretary and director of the company, was instantly killed.

Thomas W. Caldwell of Morrisston, N. J., also a director of the company, received a compound fracture of the skull and is not expected to live. He is now in the Hudson street hospital.

George H. Smith, head of the firm of Smith & Hicks, fire underwriters, was injured about the head and body.

It is not definitely known whether the elevator fell first from one of the upper floors or whether the superstructure supporting the elevator fell on top of it from the roof of the building. There was a jarring sound and then a crash.

The cables snapped and the counterweights, half a dozen in number and weighing from 60 to 70 pounds each, descended, bounding from side to side of the shaft. They crashed through the roof of the car. One of them struck Secretary Griffin on the head, crushing it in. Another struck Director Caldwell a glancing blow on the back of the head, fracturing the skull and exposing the brain. Underwriter Smith was struck by the top cable and debris.

The elevator man, Dennis Sullivan, had presence of mind enough to throw open the lower gate just as the first crash came, and the other passengers in the car were able to get out of the cage in time to save them.

After the accident Sullivan was arrested and is held awaiting the action of the coroner. It appears from statements made by Manager Balknap of the Otis Elevator company and from others in the building that this elevator had been inspected ten minutes before the accident, occurred and pronounced absolutely safe. Manager Balknap could not advance any theory as to the cause of the accident.

Killed by a Boy. Wednesday morning City Marshal A. D. Bryant of McKenzie, Ky., was shot in the back of the head three times and almost instantly killed while seated in the telegraph office there. The murderer was a boy of McKenzie, named Hughley McCall. McCall fled to his home committed suicide by taking morphine. The cause alleged for the murder was that Bryant arrested McCall last Saturday for drunkenness and city violations.

NEW COUNTY LAW.

There Will be a Change of System by February 1.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE ACT.

Why The Law For the Change of System Is Not Yet on the Statute Books.

It may not be generally remembered that the State will have practically a new county government system next year. The law providing for the change of system is not in the statute books. It will not be printed in the statutes until the acts for next year are published. This happened in this way: The General Assembly at its last session passed the new county government bill and provided that it should go into effect in several counties shortly after its adoption. Representatives were made to Governor Ellerbe that it would not be well for the new system to go into effect during last spring and last summer in the counties indicated, because of certain work then in progress, which might be jeopardized by a change of officers. The Act was "held-up" and it does not go into effect until after the assembling of the General Assembly. It has neither been approved nor disapproved by Governor Ellerbe, but simply goes into effect by the operations of the Constitution, three days after the session of the General Assembly begins. The Act will no doubt go into effect on the 1st of February, when the new commissioners are to begin their term of office, under the provisions of the bill. It may be that the machinery can be started before that time. The Act provides:

Section 1 provides "That the office of county supervisor, as now provided by law, shall continue, and the successors of the present supervisors shall be elected by the people at the next general election, with a term of office for two years, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified."

Section 2 provides "That the Governor shall before the first day of February, 1899, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and before the first day of February of each succeeding year, appoint upon the recommendation of the members of General Assembly from the several counties or a majority of them, two persons from each county who shall be known as the commissioners of the county, and who shall act with the supervisor in the governmental matters of the county, the said supervisors and commissioners together to constitute a board of county commissioners. The supervisor shall be the chairman of the board of county commissioners so to be constituted."

Section 3 provides "That on the first day of February, A. D. 1899, the office of county commissioners and township commissioners, as now provided to be appointed by the Governor, shall be abolished, and the jurisdiction, duties and powers now devolved by law upon the appointive boards of county and township commissioners are hereby devolved upon the board of county commissioners herein provided for, to consist of a county supervisor and two commissioners."